

Name: _____

Guiding Questions

Document A

1. (*Close reading*) The man on the right is supposed to be Irish. What comparison is the cartoon making?
2. (*Close reading*) What is the message of this cartoon?

Document B

1. (*Close reading*) Based on this document, what were three reasons the Know-Nothings targeted Irish Catholics?
2. (*Close reading*) Based on this document, what are two reasons why the Know-Nothings believed being Catholic was incompatible with being a United States citizen?

Document C

1. (*Contextualization*) Why were Irish used for difficult labor in the South?
2. (*Close reading*) Based on this document, how were the Irish treated?

Document D

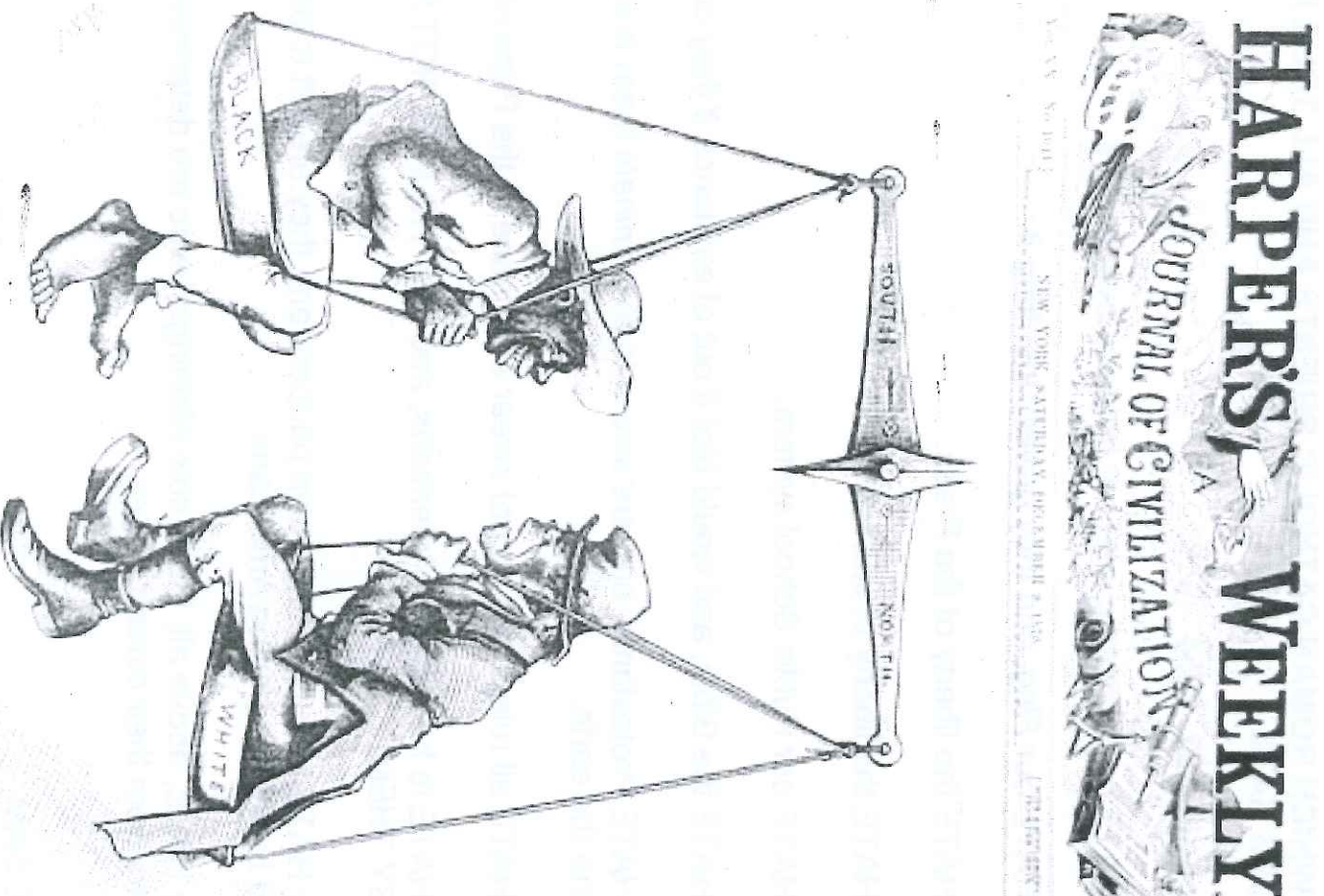
1. (*Close reading*) The woman on the right is supposed to be Irish. Describe what she looks like and how she's acting. Based on this document, what were some stereotypes about Irish women?
2. (*Contextualization*) Based on this document, what job do you think many Irish women had in the 1880s?

Were the Irish considered white in 19th century America?

| Evidence that the Irish were considered white | Evidence that the Irish were NOT considered white |
|--|---|
| <p>Final conclusion: Were the Irish considered white in 19th century America? Please explain your answer using the documents and cartoons above.</p> | |

Document A: Thomas Nast Cartoon, 1876

This cartoon by Thomas Nast was published on December 7, 1876, in Harper's Weekly.



Document B: Know-Nothing Newspaper

This is an excerpt from an article that appeared in a Boston newspaper, *The Know-Nothing and American Crusader*.

THINGS WHICH ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIESTS AND ALL TRUE ROMAN CATHOLICS HATE

Providence, July 22, 1854

1. They HATE our Republic, and are trying to overthrow it.
2. They HATE our *Flag*, and they grossly insulting it.
3. They HATE the liberty of the Press.
4. They HATE the liberty of speech.
5. They HATE our Public School system.
6. They HATE the Bible, and would blot it out of existence *if* they could!
7. They HATE Protestants, and are sworn to *exterminate* them from our country and the earth.
8. They HATE all rulers that do not swear allegiance to the Pope of Rome.
9. They HATE to be *ruled* by *Americans*, and say "WE WILL NOT BE RULED BY THEM!"
10. They HATE to support their own paupers and they are left to be supported by the tax paying Americans.
11. They HATE, above all, the "*Know-Nothings*," who are determined to rid this country from their cursed power.

—UNCLE SAM

Document C: Historian account

This is an excerpt from historian David Roediger's book Wages of Whiteness.

Irish-Americans workers . . . [were sometimes] used as substitutes for slaves within the South. Gangs of Irish immigrants worked ditching and draining plantations, building levees and sometimes clearing land because of the danger of death to valuable slave property (and, as one account put it, to mules) in such pursuits . . . One Southerner explained the use of Irish labor on the grounds that: "n-----s are worth too much to be risked here; if the Paddies (Irish) are knocked overboard . . . nobody loses anything."

Irish youths were also likely to be found in the depleted ranks of indentured servants from the early national period (early 1800s) through the Civil War. In that position they were sometimes called "Irish slaves" and more frequently "bound boys." . . . In New York City, Irish women comprised the largest group of prostitutes, or as they were sometimes called in the 1850s, "white slaves."

Source: David R. Roediger, *Wages of Whiteness*, 1991.

Document D: Cartoon

This cartoon by Frederick Burr Opper was published in the magazine *Puck* in 1883. It shows a non-Irish woman imploring her Irish cook to continue her duties. The cook shakes her fist in defiance.



THE IRISH DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE THAT WE ARE ALL FAMILIAR WITH.

Cartoon text: The Irish declaration of independence that we are all familiar with.